

1. A method of positioning a patient support apparatus powered by a line voltage at a desired speed, comprising:
    - receiving a control signal indicative of the line voltage supplied to the patient support apparatus; and
- 5 driving a motor configured to move the patient support apparatus at the desired speed using the control signal.

  

2. The method of claim 1, wherein using the control signal further includes customizing the desired speed.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control signal further includes determining a voltage indicative of the line voltage.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control signal further includes receiving input from a voltage regulator device.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control signal further includes determining a voltage delivered to the motor.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control signal further includes receiving a measurement determined by at least one of a: a voltage sensor and a current sensor.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes comparing a determined voltage to a reference voltage.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes modifying a duty cycle of the motor according to the control signal.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes correlating the control signal to a power level associated with the desired speed.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes increasing a duty cycle if a determined voltage is less than a reference voltage.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes decreasing a duty cycle if a determined voltage is greater than a reference voltage.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes generating the control signal.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control signal further includes receiving at least one of: directional data indicative of a desired direction of movement of the support surface, a speed measurement, a voltage level, a load and a patient weight.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein driving the motor further includes driving  
the motor at the desired speed for a first period corresponding to a first portion of a  
distance traveled by the support apparatus and at a second desired speed for a second  
period corresponding to a second portion of the distance traveled by the support  
5 apparatus.

15. A method of positioning a patient support apparatus at a desired speed, comprising:

receiving input indicating a desired speed at a controller of the patient support apparatus, wherein the patient support apparatus includes a moveable support surface;

processing the input to generate a control signal; and

moving the moveable support surface at the desired speed in response to receiving the control signal.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving the input further includes receiving a reference voltage.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising programmatically restricting a range in which the movable support surface moves.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving the input further includes receiving input particular to at least one of a direction, a first portion of a distance traveled by the support apparatus, and at a second desired speed for a second period corresponding to a second portion of the distance traveled by the support apparatus.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein processing the input further includes correlating the input to a power level.

20. A patient support apparatus, comprising:

a moveable support surface;

an electric motor for driving the moveable support surface at a desired speed in response to a power signal comprising a power level;

5           a sensor having an output used to generate a control signal indicative of line voltage supplied to the patient support apparatus; and

a controller for processing the control signal and initiating generation of the power signal according to the control signal.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the control signal includes a voltage indicative of the line voltage.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an input means for modifying the desired speed.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to compare a determined voltage to a reference voltage.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to modify a duty cycle of the motor according to the control signal.

25. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to correlate the control signal to a power level associated with the desired speed.

26. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to increase a duty cycle if a voltage used to generate the control signal is less than a reference voltage.

27. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to decrease a duty cycle if a voltage used to generate the control signal is greater than a reference voltage.

28. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an actuator for mechanically cooperating with the motor to move the moveable support surface.

29. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the desired speed changes according to the relative position of the moveable support surface.

30. A patient support apparatus, comprising:

a moveable support surface;

an electric motor for driving the moveable support surface at a desired speed in response to a power signal;

5 an input mechanism for receiving the desired speed; and

a controller for initiating generation of the power signal configured to cause the electric motor to drive the moveable support surface at the desired speed, wherein the power signal is generated according to the desired speed.

31. A program product comprising:

a program resident on a patient support apparatus, the patient support apparatus comprising a controller, a moveable support surface and an electric motor for driving the moveable support surface at a desired speed in response to a power signal, wherein the program is executed by the controller to initiate generation of the power signal according to user input received at the controller;

5 and

a signal bearing medium bearing the program.

32. The program product of claim 31, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission-type medium.